

# Colorado

## Workforce Development Council

Meeting Summary  
Colorado Community College System  
Lowry Campus  
Presidents Room

November 16, 2005  
9:30am – 12:00pm

### In Attendance

#### *Members:*

Mike St. Clair (proxy for Peggy Herbertson), Robert Wilson, Kersten Hostetter, Ken Fly, Elise Lowe-Vaughn (proxy for Rick Grice), Mary Beth Susman, Samantha O'Neill-Dunbar (proxy for Nancy McCallin), Mark Warne, Mark Pingrey, Nancy Lemein, Tom Allee, Joe Collins, Sue Carparelli, Nancy Smith, Les Watkins, Lucille Mantelli, Mary Layton (phone), Walt Speckman (phone), Mark Dutell (phone), Debbie Woodward, Nancy McCallin

#### *Others:*

Pat Buys (CSW), Dani Crane, Mary Gershwin (CSW), Joyce Benson-Fox, Lee Boughey (NREL), Cec Ortiz, Ledy Garcia-Eckstein, Carol Saltzmann (Exempla), Roy Vanderford (CSW), Larry Good (CSW), Debbie Woodward, Joe Cordova

#### *Staff of the Workforce Development Council:*

Booker T. Graves, Steve Wright, Aron Diaz, Glenn Little, Lee Carter

### Absent

#### *Members:*

Barbara Kirkmeyer (proxy for Mike Beasley), Gary Bien, James Bensberg, Steven Brown, Tom Flanagan, Bill Moloney, Aundrea Jackson, Colleen Brave Honomichl, Cameron Horan, Jennifer Lambert, Marva Livingston-Hammons, Brian Vogt, Bette Matkowski, Brent Ness, Rick O'Donnell, Senator Paula Sandoval, Roger Smith PhD, Nancy Stahoviak, Senator Lois Tochtrop

### Meeting

#### I. Welcome and Introductions – Mark Pingrey

Mark acknowledged Nancy Lemein for representing the Governor's office.

Mark announced that Joe Collins has been reappointed to the Council for another term.

Introduced the new Council members: Kenneth Fly, Peggy Herbertson, Mary Layton, Aundrea Jackson, and Bette Matkowski.

Introductions were made around the table.

NAWB Summer meeting in Portland – a project in Washington was examined that deals with industry skills panels; the Council will review the program more in-depth after the first of the year. It appears to be a project that would benefit Colorado.

## II. Technical Assistance to the Council

A third-party organization has been selected to provide Technical Assistance in developing the workforce system in Colorado; in order to realize the system's full potential and become more focused and streamlined. An RFP was issued in July for professional workforce development consultants. There were several respondents and the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) was selected, they were the obvious choice (they stood out far above the rest). The contract is being finalized.

Representatives from CSW made a presentation to the Council on the needs of the workforce system and how they can assist the Workforce Development Council in Colorado. There is currently a lack of good strategizing; there are a lot of fears in the middle class.). The Division of Voc Rehab needs to be included in any future planning as a major partner with the Council.

## III. CIMS

The CIMS program gives incentives for workforce regions to be innovative. The CIMS program is working with CPEX, a Baldrige-based entity in Colorado. As part of the CIMS, each workforce region acknowledges a business partner that has assisted the region in achieving positive workforce development results.

Exempla Healthcare is being honored for their partnership with Tri-County. They are the only healthcare representative on the Tri-County WIB and are working to solve the long-term healthcare shortage in Jefferson County.

## IV. NREL

Lee Boughey from NREL gave a presentation on energy and its impact on economic/workforce development.

What is the next big thing that will power the economy in Colorado? Energy and Renewable Energy is getting more attention. Energy can be used as a vehicle for economic health and wealth. The Council is exploring Energy and what that means for Colorado's workforce. A big question is how to engage students and the community regarding careers in Energy.

Energy and economic development are inextricably linked. World energy demands will increase significantly and nations will need energy to be prosperous. National

growth can be charted through the types of energy that are used. Petroleum use is not going to slow down, but petroleum production continues to fall. US energy consumption is going to increase by 36% and world consumption will increase by 54%. New technologies need to be found to deal with shortage issues. There is a need for a whole new class of workers to fill the needs of these new technologies, which will see a growth rate of 20-40% worldwide.

There are tremendous workforce development opportunities in the biomass industry. Governors are looking at ways to increase penetration of clean energy production. Research programs are linked to market opportunities.

NREL makes a \$128 million impact in Colorado (\$70 million in payroll alone). Education programs are very important at NREL. NREL offers a unique delivery of energy education programs and there is a teaching program for students and teachers around energy programs. NREL uses internships to give exposure to students to help them decide if they have the desire to pursue employment in Energy industries. Jobs in renewable energy are available in the wind industry, solar industry, and bioenergy. NREL partners with the Community Colleges, Technical Schools, and Four-Year degree programs. NREL works to assist under-represented communities through workforce, educational outreach, economic development, etc.

## V. Committee Reports

### BOAM

- Tom Allee is the new co-chair as Skip has moved out of state
- A final marketing report was prepared by Celina
- There need to be efforts in creating a recognizable system and services
- Committee is working to develop technical capability to carry out marketing efforts and provide financial resources to promote statewide activities
- The Marketing Taskforce has carried out much of the work that BOAM has initiated
- Working on credentials for workforce staff and their marketing capabilities
- December 5<sup>th</sup> will be a strategic planning session at A/D Works involving Directors, Marketing Taskforce, and BOAM Committee

*Motion to accept report, seconded, and motion passed.*

### SDPC

- Last meeting was cancelled; rescheduling meeting for the beginning of December
- Sponsoring a workforce information taskforce (information that relates to CDLE (LMI), Demography, Census, etc); what uses are people putting LMI to; what is an important consideration to include in the workforce information taskforce – micro enterprise advisory council has been created (22% of employment consists of companies with 5 or fewer employees)
- Certification – work readiness study completed by R&M Resource Development;

what is the need for a certificate for clients applying for employment (this is being done on an informal basis now); this certification would determine that people have the basic skills to be trained for future tasks; WorkKeys is being used in Colorado to assess skills; would level the playing field for those with disabilities

*Motion to accept report, seconded, and motion passed.*

#### SYC

- Focus has been on strategic planning
- Focusing on four areas including performance, management, and measurement
- Looking to have an annual report to examine what youth initiatives are being pursued across the state
- Identifying additional stakeholders
- Sustaining membership and gaining new members
- Rolling out work plan in December
- Working on marketing and messaging (align with BOAM)
- Looking at local strategies and how the SYC can provide Technical Assistance
- Educate internal and external partners about the SYC
- Grants this year were of a much higher quality than in previous years

*Motion to accept report, seconded, and motion passed.*

#### SWIS

- Pat retired
- Peggy Herbertson has been added as the new co-chair
- Last meeting was cancelled; rescheduling meeting for the beginning of December
- CIMS – award presentation; what is a better way to recognize business partners on a large scale; really want to publicize recipients of these awards; use Workforce Development Month as a venue to recognize businesses; use Chamber meetings/events to recognize businesses; send Booker any comments
- Reaction to energy as a focus for future projects, grants, etc. - would support that as a focus, makes sense; there needs to be evidence/data to support the Council's decision to head in this direction (comparison should be made to other industry sectors)
- Want Council approval to participate in energy and renewable energy group; motion approved

*Motion to accept report, seconded, and motion passed.*

#### VI. Director's Report

- Two-year plan – The feds were very impressed with Colorado's results
- Annual report – served over 300,000 people; CWDC distributed \$1.3 million in grants

- Attended homelessness academy – invited to participate on Coalition on Homeless; may come to CWDC to work with them for employment solutions; endorsement to participate on Coalition and promote Council's participation; motion approved
- Rocky Mountain Workforce Development Meeting – staff development event; builds collaboration and skills/knowledge of staff; approval to proceed to support the Rocky Mountain Workforce Convention next year; motion approved
- Process to create a regional collaboration in the metro area and the northern regions; want CWDC to support the collaboration, and as requests come into the OWD, Booker will take these requests to the SWIS Committee; motion approved
- WELLS Center is moving into temporary facility
- e-Portal is up and running

Adjourned at 12:10pm